

Docket No.
524941/0023

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: **Akira Ichihashi, et al.**

Group Art Unit: **Not Yet Assigned**

Application No.: **Not Yet Assigned**

Examiner: **Not Yet Assigned**

Filed: **Concurrently Herewith**

For: **A PRESSURE DIFFERENTIAL REGULATING VALVE UNIT, A
LIQUID CARTRIDGE AND A METHOD FOR ASSEMBLING A
LIQUID CARTRIDGE**

Date: **December 8, 2003**

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Mail Stop Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the document listed on the enclosed Information Disclosure Statement by Applicant (PTO/SB/08A) form.

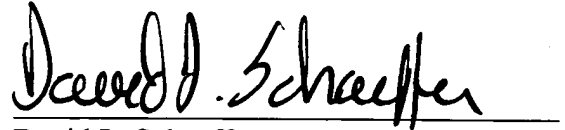
This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(1), on the same date as the subject application.

Accordingly, no fee is believed to be due. Nevertheless, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees which may now or hereafter be due in connection with this application to Deposit Account No. 19-4709, as necessary.

It is respectfully requested that the above information be considered by the Examiner and that a copy of the enclosed Information Disclosure Statement by Applicant (PTO/SB/08A) form be returned indicating that such information has been considered.

Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of this application is respectfully requested. In the event that there are any questions, or should additional information be required, please do not hesitate to contact applicant's attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "David L. Schaeffer", written over a horizontal line.

David L. Schaeffer
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| <p>Substitute for form 1449A/PTO</p> <p>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</p> <p><i>(Use as many sheets as necessary)</i></p> | | | | Complete if Known | |
| | | | | Application Number | Not Yet Assigned |
| | | | | Filing Date | Concurrently Herewith (12/8/2003) |
| | | | | First Named Inventor | Akira Ichihashi, et al. |
| | | | | Art Unit | Not Yet Assigned |
| | | | | Examiner Name | Not Yet Assigned |
| | | | | Attorney Docket Number | 524941/0023 |

[illegible]

| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|--------------------------------|--|---|----------------|
| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Foreign Patent Document | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear | T ⁶ |
| | | Country Code ³ Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known) | | | | |
| | | JP-11-170558-A | 06-29-1999 | Seiko Epson Corp. | (complete) | X |
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| Examiner Signature | | Date Considered | |
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. 1 Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). 2 See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. 3 Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). 4 For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. 5 Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. 6 Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.**

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.